

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 65017 JAMES SOUTHARD

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for the implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within James Southard, allotment #65017, meets Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ Eddie Bateson
Field Manager

8/8/2006
Date

Standards of Public Land Health

Evaluation of 65017 JAMES SOUTHARD Allotment

[10/15/2005]

The Roswell Field Office conducted a rangeland health assessment at one () 1 study site within the James Southard allotment #65017. This assessment evaluated Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the study site location. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of field assessments. A summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
65017-SEC 8-C026	X			X	*		N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on James Southard, allotment #65017. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic function and 13 biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected on one location were utilized to assess the rangeland health of public land within this allotment. This allotment is a "C" (custodial) category due to small amounts of public land present.

Section 8 Pasture is a CP-2 (Pecos-Canadian Plains & Valleys) Sandy Plains ecological site encompassing 363 acres/150 hectares. Soil is (RPD) Roswell-Jalmar fine sand, hilly occurring on high terraces in eastern parts of area surveyed. Elevation is 3,900 ft/1,181 m to 4,100/1,242 m. Roswell soil occurs on hummocky sand dunes and Jalmar is in depressional and interdunal areas. These soil units formed in eolian and alluvial deposits and are deep and well-drained. Cattle were observed at evaluation in this pasture and utilizing at conservative levels. Bare ground and annual production both rated Moderate. Bare ground was estimated at 40 percent which approaches upper ends of range expected and exceeds long-term average of 26.5 percent. Annual production was estimated at 500 lbs/ac or kg/ha. This is 1/2 and 1/4 of long-term average and ESD figures respectively. Lesser prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) tracks were observed in this area. Sand bluestem (*Andropogon hallii*) clumps were observed but scarce. Shinnery oak (*Quercus havardii*), sand sage (*Artemisia filifolia*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia engelmannia*) are some shrubs observed in addition to yucca (*Yucca* spp.) and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*). Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and dropseed (*Sporobolus* spp.) are abundant in dunes and interspaces respectively. Proportions of shinnery to grass is adequate for LPC nesting cover and rates special status species and wildlife habitat Slight to Moderate. Those remaining indicators assessed exhibited normal range of variability from ecological site and reference areas.

In the professional opinion of Assessment Team, public land within James Southard, allotment #65017 meets Upland and Biotic standards. There are no Riparian issues present, therefore this standard was not addressed. See site notes and recommendations for further information regarding evaluations on this allotment.

Recommendations: Current management practices should continue for this allotment. Conservative use levels are advantageous to LPC nesting cover. Locations of water and other improvements should only serve to enhance wildlife habitat and protect watershed attributes.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 65017-SEC 8-C026						
Legal Land Desc	NENE 8 0070S 0310E Meridian 23		Acreage		363	
Ecosite	070BY055NM SANDY PLAINS CP-2		Photo Taken		Y	
Watershed	13060003210 RAILROAD MOUNTAIN					
Observers	ARTHUN/MOE		Observation Date		01/11/2006	
County Soil Survey	NM644 CHAVES NORTH		Soil Var/Taxad			
Soil Map Unit	RPD		Soil Taxon Name		ROSWELL	
Texture Class	NM644 FS		Soil Phase		ROSWELL- JALMAR	
Texture Modifier	NM644 FINE SANDS,HILLY					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation			Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Annual Precipitation	19.55		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation		15.86	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	15.73		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation		13.34	
Disturbances and Animal Use:	Livestock observed; LPC tracks also were seen.					
Part 2. Attributes and Indicators						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						

S H	Bare Ground			X		
Comments:	40% is the current estimate.					
S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:	Some gullying activity by the road.					
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas				X	
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:	Shinnery oak leaves are piling with some movement.					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	Interspace melted/canopy held together.					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:	60% is the current estimate.					
B	Annual Production			X		
Comments:	500 lbs/ac or kg/ha is the current estimate.					
B	Invasive Plants					X
Comments:						
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	

Comments:	Physical/biological crusts observed.					
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:	Good deer and pronghorn.					
B	Special Status Species Habitat				X	
Comments:	Good LPC nesting but could use more sand bluestem					
B	Special Status Species Populations					X
Comments:	Good LPC pops					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	1	7	2
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	7	3
B	Biotic	0	0	1	6	6

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	1	9
Hydrologic		0	1	10

Biotic		0	1	12
Site Notes: This site was gps'd to verify coordinates. Livestock observed. Little and sand bluestem observed in dunal areas. The usual component of shrubs is adequate.				

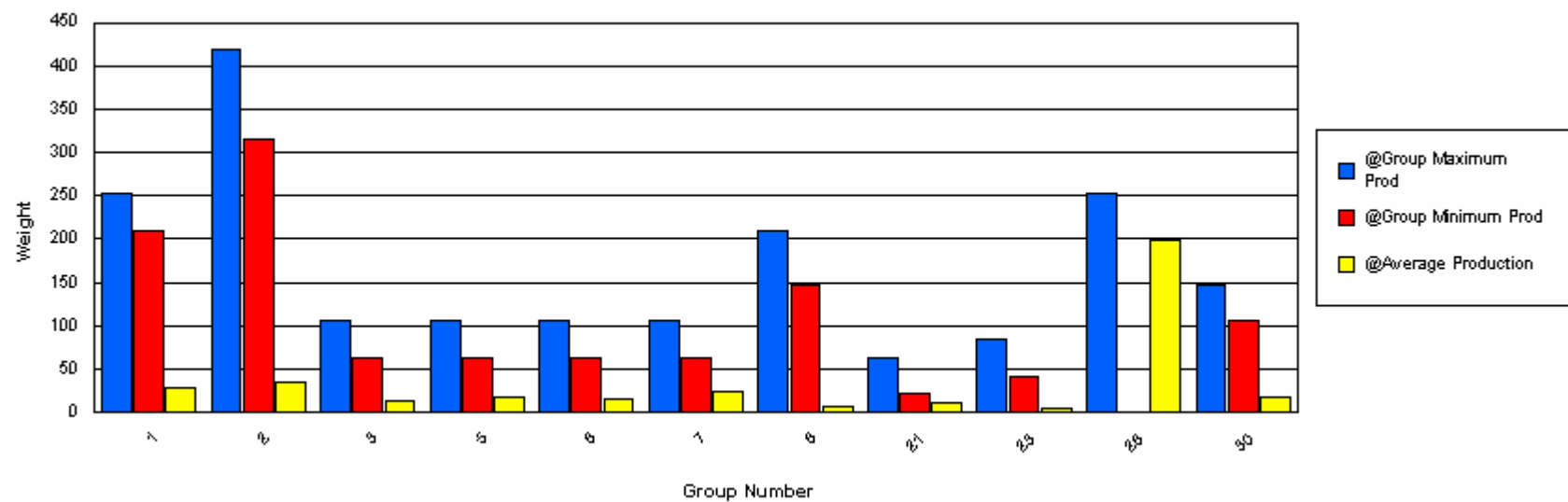
Functional / Structural Groups

Report Parameters

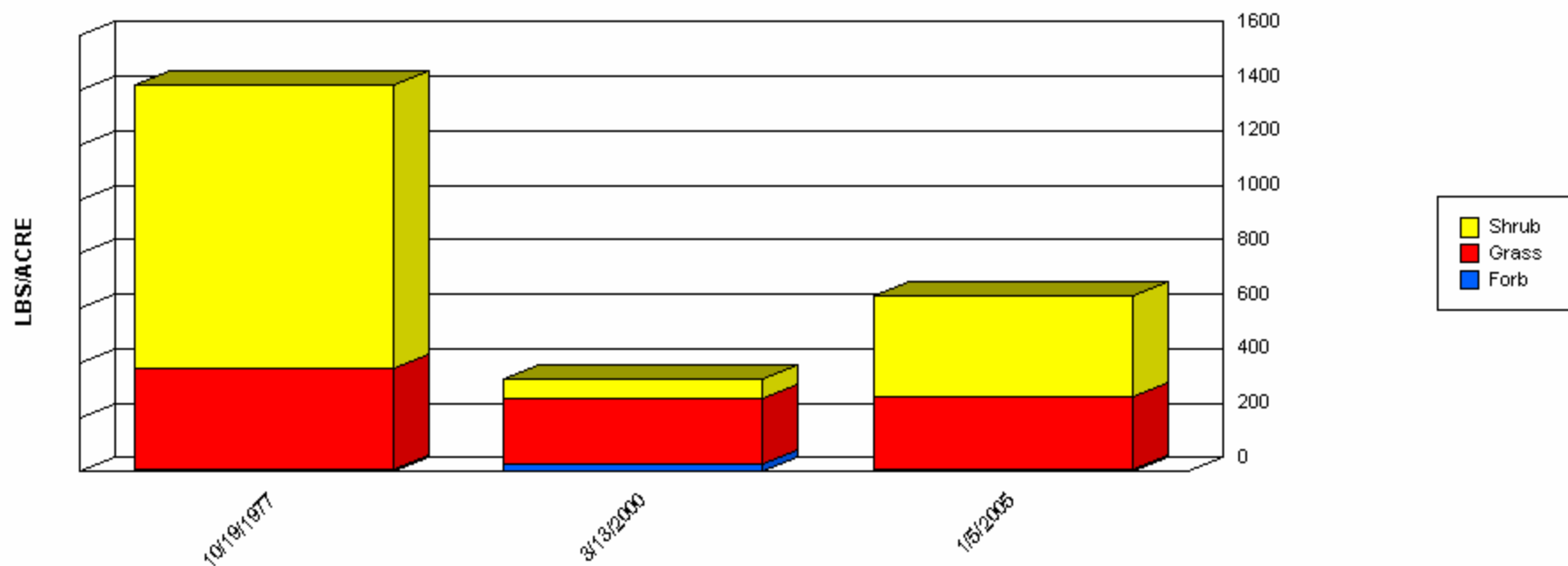
SITE NAME LIKE 65017-SEC 8-C026
 ON/AFTER 10/01/1978
 ON/BEFORE 09/30/2005
 MIN LBS TO GRAPH 1
 SELECTED ECOSITE 070BY055NM

Group	Plant Type	Species	Low Wt Allowed	High Wt Allowed	Minimum	Maximum	Average	STDEV
1	Grass	ANHA	210	252	18.95	37.05	28.00	9.05
2	Grass	ANSC2	315	420	15.20	51.84	33.52	18.32
3	Grass	EROX	63	105	0.00	14.40	7.20	7.20
3	Grass	PAST6	63	105	0.00	12.74	6.37	6.37
5	Grass	BOHI2	63	105	5.87	30.80	18.34	12.47
6	Grass	ARIST	63	105	0.00	28.83	14.42	14.42
7	Grass	LECO	63	105	0.53	46.98	23.76	23.23
8	Grass	SPCR	147	210	0.00	14.56	7.28	7.28
21	Forb	ERIOG	21	63	0.00	22.44	11.22	11.22
23	Forb	AAFF	42	84	0.45	7.44	3.95	3.50
26	Shrub	QUHA3	0	252	54.00	342.24	198.12	144.12
30	Shrub	ARFI2	105	147	18.13	18.20	18.17	0.03

Group	Plant Type	Species	Low Wt Allowed	High Wt Allowed	Minimum	Maximum	Average	STDEV
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Production Lbs/Acre Trends

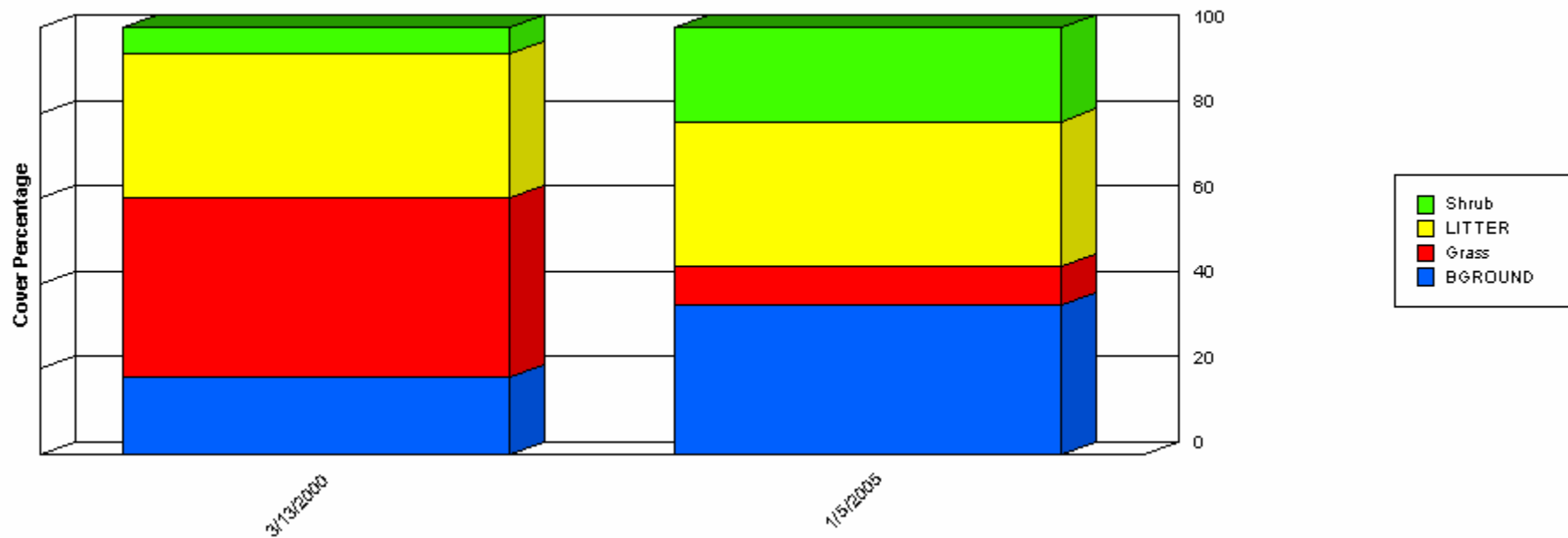


	10/19/1977	3/13/2000	1/5/2005
Forb	8.00	29.88	10.88
Grass	372.00	237.20	263.75
Shrub	1,041.00	72.20	370.77
Total	1,421.00	339.28	645.40

Report Parameters

SITE NAME LIKE 65017-SEC 8-C026
 ON/AFTER 10/01/1977
 ON/BEFORE 09/30/2005

Ground Cover Trends



	3/13/2000	1/5/2005
BGROUND	18.00	35.00
Grass	42.00	9.00
LITTER	34.00	34.00
Shrub	6.00	22.00
Total	100.00	100.00

Robel Pole Summary over Time Report

Report Parameters

SITE NAME LIKE 65017-SEC 8-C026

ON/AFTER 10/01/2004

ON/BEFORE 09/30/2006

	Primary Obstructions	65017-SEC 8-C026	65017-SEC 8-C026
		01/20/2006	01/05/2005
	Flag Stations	1	0
		% Hits	% Hits
Nv	BGROUND	34.3 %	35.7 %
Nv	LITTER	48.6 %	44.3 %
G	ARPU9	0.0 %	5.7 %
G	DICOC	0.0 %	1.4 %
G	PAST6	1.4 %	0.0 %
G	SCSC	1.4 %	1.4 %
S	ARFI2	0.0 %	4.3 %
S	QUHA3	14.3 %	5.7 %
S	YUGL	0.0 %	1.4 %

Robel Pole Summary over Time Report

Report Parameters

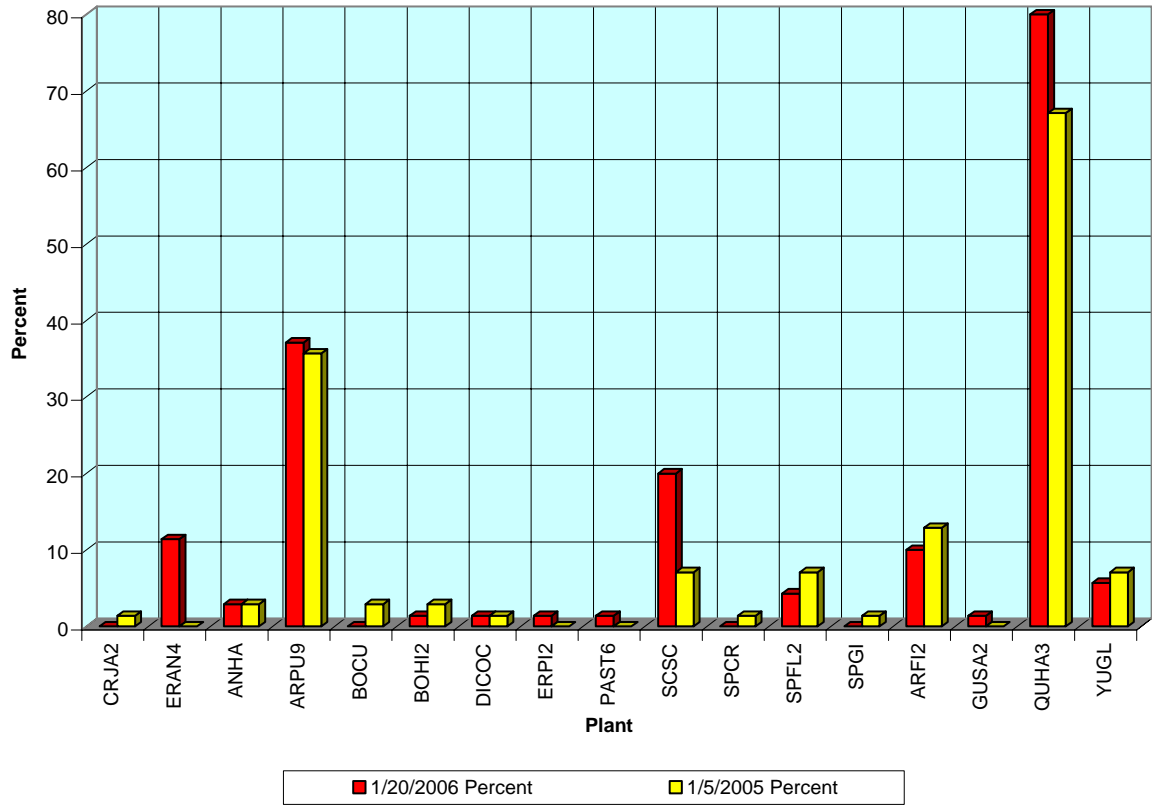
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ON/AFTER 10/01/2004

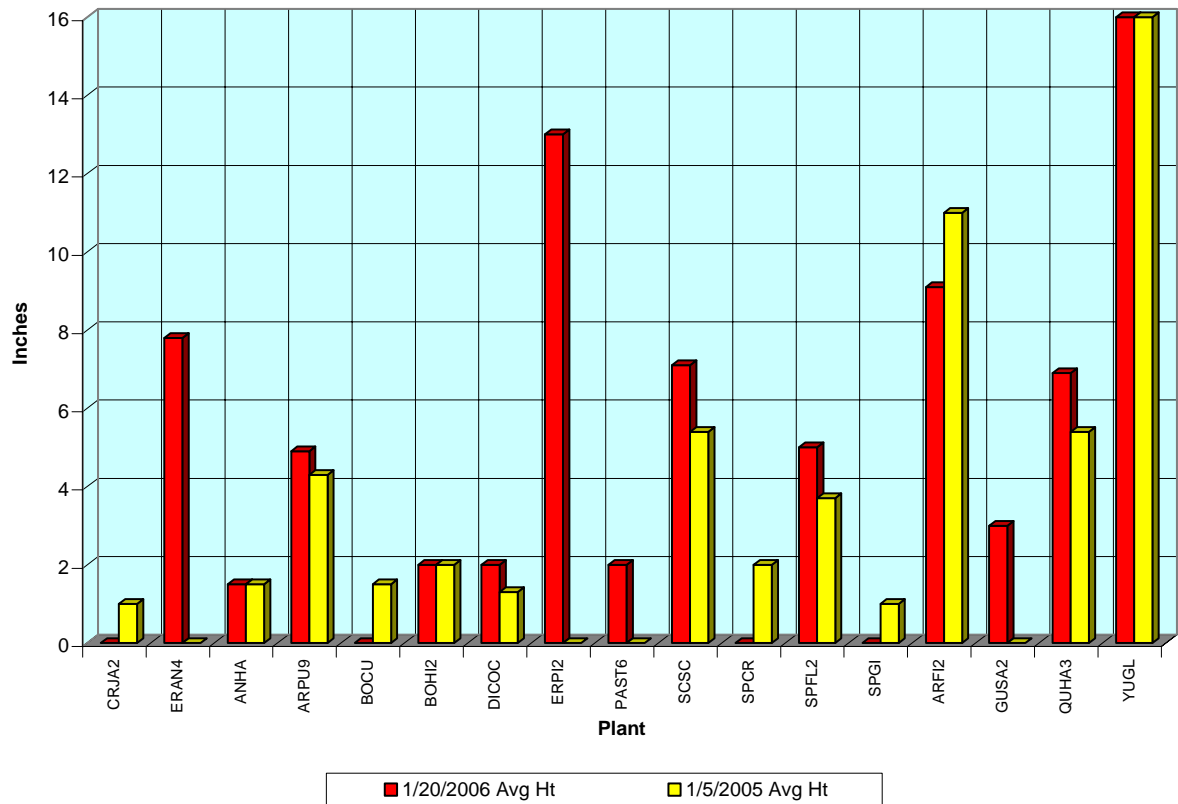
ON/BEFORE 09/30/2006

	Secondary Obstructions	65017-SEC 8-C026		65017-SEC 8-C026	
		01/20/2006		01/05/2005	
		Percent	Avg Ht	Percent	Avg Ht
F	CRJA2	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.0
F	ERAN4	11.4	7.8	0.0	0.0
G	ANHA	2.9	1.5	2.9	1.5
G	ARPU9	37.1	4.9	35.7	4.3
G	BOCU	0.0	0.0	2.9	1.5
G	BOHI2	1.4	2.0	2.9	2.0
G	DICOC	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.3
G	ERPI2	1.4	13.0	0.0	0.0
G	PAST6	1.4	2.0	0.0	0.0
G	SCSC	20.0	7.1	7.1	5.4
G	SPCR	0.0	0.0	1.4	2.0
G	SPFL2	4.3	5.0	7.1	3.7
G	SPGI	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.0
S	ARFI2	10.0	9.1	12.9	11.0
S	GUSA2	1.4	3.0	0.0	0.0
S	QUHA3	80.0	6.9	67.1	5.4
S	YUGL	5.7	16.0	7.1	16.0

Plant Composition



Plant Average Visual Obstruction Height



Plant Type Average Visual Obstruction Height

